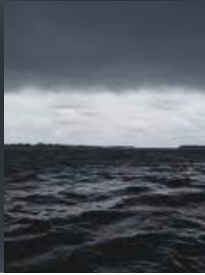




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# The Ghosts That Surround Me



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## Chapter 1 by RunningOwl13

Figures surround the body. Her hair swirls in the emptiness of the water. Her pale skin is stark against the darkness. Slowly, she sinks into the unforgiving sea. Suddenly, she gasps, only to find the water swallowing her. She was still alive. Alive, but drowning. I jump in the water and feel the waves cleanse me. But the figures hold me back. They are the ghosts that surround me.

## Chapter 2 by Coraline Castell



I open my eyes. Where am I?

Living where I did, I had gotten used to darkness. To treacherous coal mining sites. Deep mines that went underneath the Earth, barely kissed its core and then came running back outside. The last time I had been outside was far too long ago.

To compensate for it, my brain generated this recurring dream. I've always known it wasn't one of those fake unrealistic dreams; it was a twisted memory. I had been there, seen her drown. They had held me back. But who were they?

In order to enable workers to be fully functional inside the isolating cold mines, we had our memories twisted. Some of us had memories so dangerous, but so recurrent that they could not be entirely erased, not using the technology provided the mines, that is. Such was my case. When awake, I only remembered only one of the recent altered dreams I had about it.

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Instead of people, I saw ghosts.

However, being so long with only that memory to warm my nights was starting to not only render me disturbed but numb.

"Number 303! Rise!"

Outside my dreams, instead of people, I saw ghosts.

Chapter 3 by  LeAnna 



I wasn't sure what was going on. Suddenly, I heard whispers in my head. Thinking will everything be alright? I couldn't recall any of my recent memories. I've been trying to figure out what they were about. Every night I hear things not only that, but I could see things other people couldn't see. Flashing images and scenes flood my mind as they seem familiar somehow, connecting me to something I once knew.

**Write a draft for chapter 4 of 8** (1 draft)

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